

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BELIZE 00668 130207Z

17

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 EB-04 SSC-01 /081 W

----- 083996

R 122237Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3803

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

USMISSION, USUN NEW YORK 0064

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELIZE 668

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR BH

SUBJECT: NEW GOVERNMENT IN BELIZE

REF: BELIZE 650 (NOTAL)

1. LAST WEEK PREMIER PRICE COMPLETED PROCESS OF FORMING NEW GOVERNMENT. APPOINTMENTS TO NEW SENATE AND CABINET WERE ANNOUNCED, FOLLOWED BY OPENING SESSION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON NOVEMBER 8.

2. NEW SENATE. BELIZE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES THAT SIX SENATORS ARE TO BE APPOINTED FROM GOVERNMENT PARTY (PUP), TWO FROM OPPOSITION PARTY (UDP) AND ONE SELECTED JOINTLY BY PREMIER AND GOVERNOR. THIS ENABLES BOTH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PARTIES TO TAKE CARE OF SOME OF THEIR DEFEATED CANDIDATES. IN THIS CATEGORY ARE NEW SENATORS SAID MUSA, ASSAD SHOMAN (BOTH PUP) AND KENNETH TILLETT (UDP). ANOTHER NOTEWORTHY NEW SENATOR IS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BELIZE 00668 130207Z

JESUS KEN (PUP). POST'S BIO FILES CONTAIN MATERIAL ON KEN

ASSOCIATING HIM WITH SUPPORTERS OF CASTRO IN CUBA, THE FAR IN GUATEMALA AND EARLY RADICAL ELEMENTS IN BELIZE.

3. NEW CABINET. ALTHOUGH MOSTLY A RESHUFFLE OF PREVIOUS CABINET, THE INCLUSION OF ASSAD SHOMAN AS THE NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING IS OF INTEREST AS IS THE APPOINTMENT OF FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL VERNON HARRISON (HARRY) COURtenay AS MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO AND AMBASSADOR TO THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY.

4. COMMENT. SHOMAN APPOINTMENT ESPECIALLY NOTEWORTHY. GIVEN HIS AVOWED MARXIST ORIENTATION, HIS ELEVATION TO KEY ROLE IN SHAPING COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT POLICIES IS SEEN BY BELIZE BUSINESS AND BANKING COMMUNITY AS AN UNMISTAKABLE INDICATION THAT PRICE HAS NO INTENTION OF TRIMMING HIS SAILS OR ALTERING LEFT-WARD COURSE SET FOR BELIZE BY PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT'S LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS. THAT PRICE, DESPITE SETBACK DEALT HIS PARTY BY BELIZEAN VOTERS IN OCTOBER 30 ELECTIONS, HAS GIVEN NOT ONLY A SENATE SEAT BUT TWO KEY CABINET PORTFOLIOS TO A CANDIDATE WHO HAD BEEN DECISIVELY DEFEATED AT THE POLLS IS PROBABLY AN ACCURATE MEASURE OF THE INTRANSIGENCE OPPOSITION WILL ENCOUNTER IN ITS EFFORTS TO HAVE ITS VIEWS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY NEW GOVERNMENT.

5. COMMENT ON ECONOMIC POLICY. BROAD RANGE OF UNREALISTIC PRICE CONTROLS ESTABLISHED BY PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT UNLIKELY TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY MODIFIED. ALSO, CHANCES NOW APPEAR SLIGHT THAT ALIEN LAND HOLDING ACT WILL BE AMENDED TO MAKE INVESTMENT IN BELIZE LESS RISKY FOR FOREIGN CAPITAL, A NEED WHICH WAS BEGINNING TO BE RECOGNIZED BY THE MORE PRACTICAL, BUSINESS ORIENTED ELEMENTS IN PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. MOREOVER, IN VIEW OF SHOMAN'S KNOWN ANTI-AMERICAN BIAS, HIS APPOINTMENT AUGURS ILL FOR POTENTIAL U.S. INVESTMENT IN BELIZE AS WELL AS FOR OTHER U.S. INTERESTS IN THIS COUNTRY.

6. MORE COMMENT. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CABINET POST FOR GOB'S AMBASSADOR TO CARICOM IS INDICATIVE OF PRICE'S GREAT EXPECTATION OF BENEFITS HE BELIEVES (OR AT LEAST CLAIMS TO BELIEVE) WILL FLOW FROM BELIZE'S ACCESSION TO CARICOM. IT MAY ALSO BE VIEWED BY SOME (THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT, FOR EXAMPLE) AS A CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BELIZE 00668 130207Z

SIGNIFICANT NEW ASSERTION OF INDEPENDENCE.

7. FURTHER COMMENT. IMPLICATIONS OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS FOR U.K./GUATEMALA TERRITORIAL DISPUTE CAN NOT, OF COURSE, BE AUTHORITATIVELY EVALUATED FROM HERE, BUT IT SEEMS UNLIKELY GOG WILL FAIL TO NOTICE EITHER SHOMAN APPOINTMENT OR APPOINTMENT OF AN "AMBASSADOR" TO CARICOM. GAWF

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTITUTION, NATIONAL ELECTIONS, REORGANIZATIONS, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BELIZE00668
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740326-0694
From: BELIZE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741152/aaaabrud.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BELIZE 650 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW GOVERNMENT IN BELIZE
TAGS: PFOR, BH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005